--2. Discussion of Related Art--.

Page 2,   line 19, change "Referring" to --With reference--;

line 26, change "referring" to --With reference--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

4.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein said first lens group remains fixed during zooming.

5.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to claim 1, wherein said second lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens from the object side.

6.   (Amended)   The zoom lens according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein said fourth lens group consists of one positive lens alone.

7.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, which satisfies the following condition (a):

$$0.3 < |L_3| / |L_2| < 1.0 \qquad \qquad \ldots(a)$$

where L_2 is an amount of said second lens group from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end, and L_3 is an amount of said third lens group from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end.

8.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein said second lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein.

9.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein said fourth lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein.

19.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to [any one of claim 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 18] claim 17, wherein said fourth lens group moves along an optical axis direction for focusing.

20.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 19] claim 17, which satisfies the following condition (5):

$$0.3 < F_3/F_4 < 0.8 \qquad \qquad \dots(5)$$

wherein F_i is a focal length of an i-th lens group.

21.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 20] claim 17, which satisfies the following condition (6):

$$0.4 < |\beta_{2T}| < 1 \qquad \qquad \dots(6)$$

where β_{2T} is a lateral magnification of the second lens group of the telephoto end of said system.

22.   (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 21] claim 17, wherein said fourth lens group consists of one positive lens.

23.   (Amended) The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 22] claim 17, wherein said third lens group consists of three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens in order from an object side thereof.

24.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 23] claim 17, wherein at least one surface in said third lens group is an aspherical surface.

25.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 24] claim 17, wherein at least one surface in said fourth lens group is an aspherical surface.

26.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 25] claim 17, wherein at least one surface in said second lens group is an aspherical surface.

Claim 28, line 3, after "(8)", insert a period --.--.

29.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 26] claim 17, which satisfies the following condition (7):

$$\nu_{21} < 40 \qquad\qquad\qquad ...(7)$$

where ν_{21} is an Abbe's number of the negative lens located nearest to the object side of said second lens group.

30.   (Amended)   The zoom lens system according to [any one of claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 to 26] claim 17, which satisfies the following condition (8):

$$\nu_{21} < 35 \qquad\qquad\qquad ...(8)$$

where ν_{21} is an Abbe's number of the negative lens located nearest to the object side of said second lens group.